

[A 2008 Spring Conference Coming Up](#)

The North Carolina All-Hazards 2008 Spring Conference will be held March 2nd – 5th at the Sea Trial Conference Center located in Sunset Beach, NC. Visit the NC Emergency Management Association website at www.ncema.org for more details.

[SECC Meeting Was Held January 9, 2008](#)

On January 9, 2008, the State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) held its meeting at the North Carolina State Highway Patrol Training Academy in Raleigh. Eighteen individuals representing local television, radio, cable broadcasters along with state and local emergency response agencies attended. Meeting highlights included:

- Full power broadcast stations are required by the FCC to convert to a digital broadcast by February 17, 2009. Some will broadcast in both analog and digital signals as long as demand exists. A digital converter box should cost an estimate \$60.00 – \$80.00 each. The Federal government will issue \$40.00 discount vouchers towards the purchase of a converter box, one voucher per box per household. A converter box will be needed for television sets that use antennas.
- SECC and the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters (NCAB) will team up to produce a public education campaign on the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The goal will be to educate the public on EAS, its meaning, its purpose and how the public should react when the tones are sounded.
- NCAB wants media to be credentialed to ensure rapid entry into disaster scenes. They believe the media can deliver valuable resources and services that will allow emergency managers to get critical information to the public. NCAB plans to present its position in a proposal to state officials.
- In 2007, there were 13 official Amber Alert notifications resulting in activation of the EAS system. Media participation is 100% voluntary. Many broadcasters run Amber Alert notifications every 30 minutes until the notice is cancelled. Silver Alert notifications are run once through the life of the alert. Silver Alerts do not use the EAS system, the media is notified via media advisory. The risk of citizens abusing the Amber Alert/Silver Alert system by creating bogus reports is possible and does occur. Currently, there are no State laws for falsely using the system. An individual may be charged with a misdemeanor for filing a false report.
- Future SECC meetings will be conducted twice a year, Spring and Fall.

For more information, contact Cory Grier at (919) 733-3824 or cgrier@ncem.org.

[FEMA NPDIB#276 Announced](#)

The National Exercise Division, in partnership with FEMA Regional Offices announced the implementation of the Regional Exercise Support Program, National Preparedness Directorate Information Bulletin Number 276. This announcement marks a shift in strategy from a State-focused approach to a regional (multi-state) approach. This strategy will allow FEMA to effectively integrate national, regional, territorial, tribal, state and local preparedness exercises. The Regional Exercise Support Program will support one discussion-based exercise (seminar, workshop, tabletop) and five operation-based exercises (drills, functional, full scale) within each of the 10 FEMA Regions. The Regional Exercise Support Program is not limited to new exercise initiatives. It can be applied to exercises currently on the planning schedule. North Carolina's State Administrative Agency representative, CCPS Sectary Bryan Beatty, or their designees are to determine the exercise support priorities and submit one application for each desired exercise.

For more information: [Http://hseep.dhs.gov](http://hseep.dhs.gov)

For more information, contact Carolyn Freitag at (919) 715-9213 or Cfreitag@ncem.org or Eric Leath at (919) 715-9268 or Eleath@ncem.org.

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NCHART Conducts Night Training In Salisbury.

On Tuesday January 15, the Helo Aquatic Rescue Team (HART) conducted training in a heavily wooded area in Salisbury, NC. The training used three rescue scenarios that first responders could encounter and must be prepared for. The first scenario involved a hiker who was lost and injured in the woods. The hiker had to be located and transported by aircraft. The second scenario involved a hunter who had fallen out of a tree stand. The hunter had to be attended to and transported via air. The third scenario involved kayakers on a swollen creek who become stranded on a debris field. The training included night rescue training using night vision equipment. Other agencies that participated were Charlotte Fire Department, several local fire departments, emergency medical responders, local emergency management agencies and law enforcement agencies. For more information, contact Todd Brown at (919) 733-4998 or tbrown@ncem.org.



Disaster Housing Task Force Meeting – January 23, 2008

NCEM's Individual Assistance Section is coordinating efforts to develop a strategic Disaster Housing Plan for North Carolina. The plan is designed to accommodate the citizens in the aftermath of a catastrophic event that would require temporary housing beyond the shelter phase. FEMA selected the State of North Carolina as a representative for FEMA Region IV to pilot the Disaster Housing Plan program. The plan will guide efforts in identifying short-term, interim and long-term disaster housing. In December 2007, the Individual Assistance Section selected members to form a task force group comprised of representatives from our State Emergency Response Team partners, other government agencies, profit and nonprofit organizations, educators and faith based organizations. The Disaster Housing Task Force met for the first time on January 23, 2008. Participants from FEMA, the Lion's Club, Redevelopment Center, Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, Planning, NFIP and Individual Assistance were in attendance. Much discussion was heard about the roles and responsibilities of each program, how they have been involved in disaster housing in the past and what roles they can play in the future to continue assisting our citizens. The Task force group's next step is to meet with NCEM Branch Managers and Local County EM Coordinators to determine how to further develop the Disaster Housing Plan. For more information, contact Deborah Miller at (919) 715-8000, ext 255 or dmiller@ncem.org.

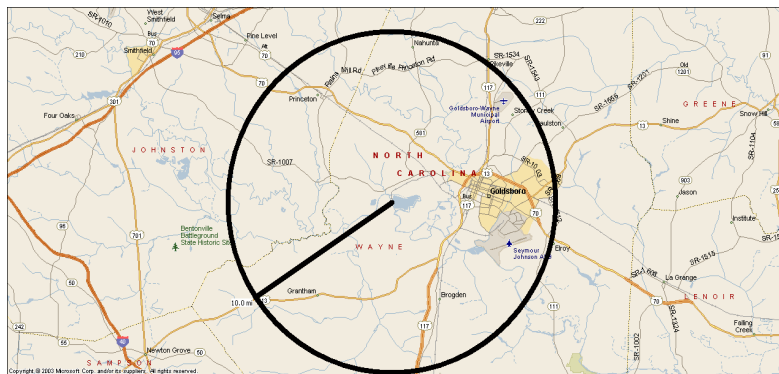
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VIPER Site Activations

Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) is a way for first responders and public safety officials to communicate with one another on a single radio system. When in place, interoperable communications will benefit all public safety agencies when dealing with daily emergency calls and large scale disasters. For more information on VIPER, contact Captain Alan Melvin, NC State Highway Patrol at (919) 662-4440 or amelvin@ncshp.org

The following VIPER sites have been established and are now operational:

Location (City/County)	Date Activated	VIPER Site Made Possible Through
/Wayne County	01/17/08	Partnership between Sampson County and Progress Energy



Note: map is not exact and are to be used as general reference.

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-Special Mentioning-

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